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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

MARCH FOR COMMUNISM



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

OUR FIGHT

✭Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✭ The dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✭Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✭While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✭Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✭Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✭Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✭Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✭Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✭Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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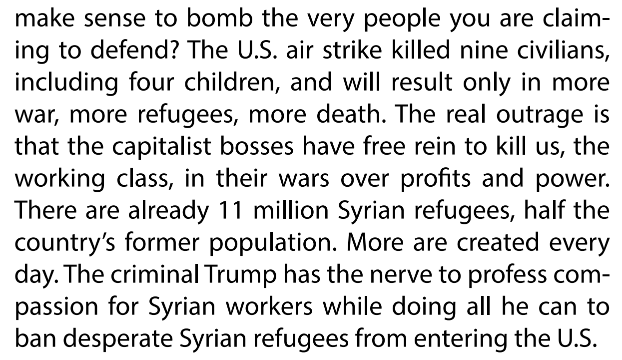
Editorial

The Imperialist Hydra of Terror in Syria



After Syrian President Bashar al-Assad attacked civilians with chemical weapons, Donald Trump bombed a government airbase in Syria with 59 Tomahawk missiles. The U.S. imperialist rulers struck in the name of "humanitarianism," but their real cause is something else again: a desperate push to maintain U.S. dominance over the Middle East and its vast oil reserves.

Humanitarian Imperialism



In what world does it make sense to bomb the very people you are claiming to defend? The U.S. air strike killed nine civilians, including four children, and will result only in more war, more refugees, more death. The real outrage is that the capitalist bosses have free rein to kill us, the working class, in their wars over profits and power. There are already 11 million Syrian refugees, half the country's former population. More are created every day. The criminal Trump has the nerve to profess compassion for Syrian workers while doing all he can to ban desperate Syrian refugees from entering the U.S.

Bombing Without a Plan

If Trump didn't bomb Syria to defend workers there, why did he do it? Why provoke Russia just as Trump and Putin seemed to be building an alliance? The answer lies in geography. Syria is important because its territory is needed for a pipeline to supply the European Union with oil and natural gas.

In 2009, Assad rejected a deal with Qatar that would have run a similar pipeline from Qatar through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey. Because of Qatar's close relationship with U.S. capitalists, the pipeline would have meant billions in profits for U.S. bosses. It also would have threatened the capitalist interests of Russian bosses, the top supplier of natural gas to Europe.

After rejecting the proposal from Qatar, Assad made a $10 billion pipeline deal with Iran, a Russian ally, to supply Europe with gas. The deal was a blow to U.S. bosses, who are increasingly losing military, political, and economic control around the world to their main rivals in Russia and China. This is the real motive for U.S. involvement in Syria: a fight over imperialist spoils.

Workers in Syria have nothing to gain by the "targeted" U.S. attack on Assad's airfield. U.S. workers must not be fooled by Trump's fake tears and staged moral outrage over the chemical attack. In fact, Assad's atrocity helped the U.S. bosses by giving them a pretext to clean up some of the messy infighting and political scandal impeding their ultimate goal: global war.

Syria Crisis Opportunity for U.S. Bosses

Trump's show of force in Syria sends a message to U.S. allies and enemies alike. In recent years, allies have lost confidence in the U.S. as the world's most powerful imperialist force. The U.S. military has been unable to win decisively since its debacle in Vietnam in the 1970s.,China's growing economy offers more opportunities for trading partners than the weakening economy of the U.S. Russia has proven more decisive militarily, leading Turkey—a longtime strategic U.S. ally—to hedge its bets:,

> *This critical NATO ally [Turkey] has been allying itself with Russia, conducting joint exercises and, in a widely reported move, limiting its opposition to the Assad regime in exchange for being allowed to target Kurds inside Syria...Turkey recently threatened to forbid the United States from using its Incirlik airbase, which is the top staging ground for the war against ISIS (*Foreign Affairs, 4/10*).*

To maintain their global profit flows, the U.S. bosses need a president who can follow orders. Trump campaigned as an independent "outsider," but he's now expected to be as loyal to the bosses' agenda as Barack Obama and George W. Bush before him. The ongoing FBI investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's campaign team is designed to pressure the new president into falling into line. So is the barrage of criticism from the capitalist media.

The attack on Assad's airfield gave Trump an opportunity to show the U.S. ruling class that he can be their disciplined servant--to "change the perception of disarray in his administration" (New York Times, 4/7). The bosses won't be satisfied with one limited attack on a Syrian air base. The Council on Foreign Relations, a leading main-wing capitalist think tank, criticized Trump for not going far enough—and for lacking a bigger plan for war.

Opportunities for Fightback

Although Trump appears to be responding to the bosses' pressure, big problems remain for U.S. capitalism. As U.S. bosses get more desperate to retain control over Middle East oil and other resources, they will become even more vicious and make more mistakes. As members and friends of Progressive Labor Party, it is our job to use their weaknesses against them.

We must harness the rage we feel every time we see children terrorized in Syria, every time we see a Black or Latin worker murdered mercilessly by the police, every time we see families separated by heartless deportations. We must channel our working-class anger into organizing for a communist world. As the working class struggles through this dark night, we cannot lose confidence in our ability to win a world where drone strikes, famine, and police murder are distant memories. Progressive Labor Party fights for a communism, a system based on egalitarianism. That means destroying racism, sexism, nationalism, and the entire profit system. Communist revolution is the only way to destroy capitalism and all its horrors.

It's clear that the capitalists have no loyalty to the working class, or even to each other as they fight over profits. All that unites them is their exploitation and oppression of the working class. The calamity in Syria is proof that they are willing to destroy anything and anyone standing in their way.

This May Day, we must unite under the red flag of the international working class. We must carry on the struggle of courageous working-class fighters to defend and liberate our class, once and for all!✪

Workers Fight to Halt Deportations at Airport

CHICAGO, IL April 5—Two buses transporting undocumented workers pulled up at the airport, and the crowd grew restless. A strong multiracial crowd of 50 from community groups protested the racist deportations taking place at a local airport.

Stop the Bus, Stop the Planes

Clergy, attempting to pray away our problems, initially dominated the rally. While some protest leaders tried to distract us with speeches, a group of workers made their way into the street to block the buses. The buses then dashed toward another entrance of the airport. Progressive Labor Party members and friends called for a march on the buses, and led the rally to confront the buses.

As we approached, we realized the kkkops were not prepared. A militant worker opened an unlocked gate and we went onto the tarmac. We were no longer about stopping the buses; we wanted to stop the planes. A group of workers militantly began to do so when some local clergy, openly "agreeing" with the police, called for protesters to come back.

This created mass confusion, which eventually led to people getting off the tarmac. Although the attempt to stop the airplanes was derailed by misleading clergy, it showed workers potential willingness to take bold action to defend the working class.

A member of PLP called out out the true enemy of working class people, capitalism, and said that Trump was actually continuing the policies of Obama. He also connected mass incarceration with mass deportations, since both Black and Latin workers are all super exploited by capitalism. Many people agreed, took CHALLENGE newspaper, and gave contact information.

Airport Serving its Racist Purpose

This airport is used to deport Black and Latin undocumented workers in the entire Chicagoland area. It was built decades ago, but under a 1995 contract it was never to conduct commercial flights. Its sole purpose has been the deportations of undocumented workers. For the past eleven years, every Friday morning, Homeland Security and ICE have used this airport to carry out the racist, capitalist deportation policies.

This rally was the result of a multiracial, multi-gender group that has begun organizing to halt these racist deportations. PL has been immersed in this, struggling to call for more militant actions and also to draw the connections between racist mass deportations and mass incarceration. We must understand that the fate of undocumented workers is our fate as well; no workers are safe under capitalism.



Protesters at local airport try to stop the deportation of immigrant workers

No Sanctuary under Capitalism

In a capitalist society where the rulers are bent on accumulating profit over everything else, the international working-class faces continual misery from poverty and miseducation to wars and refugee camps. Workers are used only for their ability to make money for the bosses who will trade their lives for just one more dollar. The discussions about establishing sanctuary and welcoming cities and campuses must include discussions about attacking the root of the problem, capitalism. And that means talking about revolution and communism.

Most members of our coalition believe in doing good works to help the most vulnerable people in this system. However, there is some unwillingness to relate these reforms to the long-term struggle for revolution. Some say that we need to establish safe or welcoming spaces for immigrants first, then make the links to capitalism and its' profiteering wars. But it's a long struggle and we must strengthen the working class for the many battles on the way to a communist revolution. Capitalism divides us by race and sex with the super exploitation of Black, Latin, immigrant and women workers. We fight to unite the working class to get rid of capitalism once and for all.

Only Communism Can Smash Fascists

Members of the PLP must be immersed in all these reformist class struggles. That's how we learn to fight for a better world. But these reforms will not end the economic, political and social terror that capitalism inflicts on our everyday lives. Capitalism will not collapse on its' own and become something better.

The only way to ensure a world free from murderous police and mass deportations is to uproot the entire profit system. Only by organizing an international revolution, led by a disciplined Progressive Labor Party can we build a communist society that the working class deserves. For a world without deportations, join the fight with PLP.

Newark Rally Slams Trump & Budget Cuts

NEWARK, NJ, April 13—A multiracial group of some 30 people rallied here today at the Federal Building to oppose the Trump budget cuts and demand increased funding in certain programs that are on the chopping block. Chants of "No cuts, no way; we're fighting back today" and "The war-makers say cut back, we say fight back" echoed through the streets. Scores of cars and many New Jersey transit bus drivers honked their horns enthusiastically in solidarity with our cause. The rally was organized by the War Against Poverty Coalition (WAPC) and endorsed by a number of other Newark-based groups. PLP joined and showed the continual stream of such policies clearly indicates the need for millions of organized workers to overthrow this system and establish a worker-run communist system in its place.

Trump's budget eliminates the Home Energy Assistance (HEA) programs. HEA checks keep low wage and unemployed workers' heat on in the winter, and their air conditioning on in the summer. Many other so-called discretionary programs are being eliminated as well, such as the Legal Services Corporation, which funds lawyers and other legal workers who represent low income people in evictions, foreclosures, benefits denials, domestic violence, veterans' issues, etc. Other programs are being severely cut, including money authorized through the Violence Against Women law, Community Development block grants, and Section 8 vouchers to help low-income workers pay for housing.

Since Black and Latin employed and unemployed workers, and particularly single women, will be hit the hardest, these cuts are racist and sexist. But white workers, including many who voted for Trump, will suffer too – as is true of all racist and sexist policies. The Trump budget is crystal clear that the $54 billion cuts from "discretionary" funds will go straight into the war budget, which soaks up more than half the federal budget and will increase under Trump. This issue looms large, as the U.S. bosses' military just announced their use of "the mother of all bombs" against ISIS in Afghanistan that day; they just bombed a Syrian airfield; and a U.S. "armada" is steaming toward the Korean peninsula to threaten the North Korean bosses with obliteration.

One speaker at the rally asked if the capitalist system, which can't provide basic necessities for women who live in homeless shelters and forces low wage workers to rely on Food Stamps, deserves to exist. Another pointed out that while the bosses spend tens of millions a day in their imperialist wars for profit, they freeze and starve our families at home. That speaker pointed out how the hypocritical liberal media suddenly began praising fascist Trump's actions as "presidential" when he rejected his own campaign rhetoric and ordered the Navy to launch missiles on Syria. A third speaker talked about how her grandson had been profiled by the cops, as she linked police brutality, war, and poverty to the whole racist profit system.

The 1960s saw widespread rebellions and an upsurge in workers' struggles. Funding for many of the programs being cut now was won from the U.S. bosses' government in that era. But like other reforms, they were used by the capitalist system to blunt mass anger against racism, sexism, poverty, and imperialist war, and lend a false appearance of justice for all. Now, in a period of diminished fight-back, these reforms are being taken back. Today, the winds of war are blowing harder. Whatever Trump said to get elected, the rulers of U.S. imperialism are moving ever closer to a military confrontation with rival Russian and Chinese bosses. Increased oppression of the working class is the inevitable consequence of a growing war budget.

PLP fights for communist revolution to eliminate capitalism – the root cause of both imperialist conflict and the increasing impoverishment of the working class. Today's rally showed that, slowly but surely, the passivity of our class is beginning to change. The first small shoots of the class understanding and revolutionary anger that it will take to overthrow this bloody, profit-driven system are beginning to sprout. As we move on to May Day, let's heat up the struggle and speed up that revolutionary process!

U.S. Imperialist Atrocities

In the wake of a chemical attack on the working class of Syria and the "mother of all bombs" dropped on Afghanistan, the U.S. ruling class would have the working class believe that the U.S. is retaliating for "humanitarian" causes. But we remember the millions of workers the U.S. has brutally murdered and attacked...

The Vietnam War (1955 - 1975)
Over 2 Million Workers Killed

While the Vietcong fought a guerrilla war using ambushes, booby traps, and handmade landmines, the U.S. army waged a hi-tech war using B52 bombers, artillery, napalm, and Agent Orange (a chemical that kills the leaves of trees and plants) sprayed across Vietnam. Over 4 million workers suffered from damaged genes and deformities, and increased cases of leukemia, lymphoma, and death.

The Invasion of Cambodia (1970)
Over 4,000 Workers Killed

In 1970, during the Vietnam War, Richard Nixon authorized secret bombing raids in Cambodia in an effort to block Vietnamese transportation of troops and supplies through neighboring Cambodia into South Vietnam. The mission, known as the "Menu" bombings resulted in 3,630 flights dropping 110,000 tons of bombs over Cambodia, during a 14-month period.

The Salvadoran Civil War (1979 - 1992)
Over 80,000 Workers Killed

Over the course of The Civil War, the U.S. was intimately involved with El Salvador's right wing government—providing weapons, money, and political support for a full 11 years. This included training the Atlacatl Battalion, the Salvadoran Army unit responsible for the Mozote Massacre, when almost the entire population of Mozote were tortured and slaughtered.

The Kosovo War (1998 - 1999)
Over 9,000 Workers Killed

Behind the guise of fighting Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic and protecting innocent people, the U.S., along with NATO forces, led a bombing campaign that devastated workers. This came in the form of several air-to-air dogfights, the release of B52 missiles, B2 stealth bombers, and the dropping of a 2,000 pound satellite-guided bunker-buster bomb in waves that lasted over 48 hours. This was an effort to defeat an internal rebellion, not protect workers.

The Darfur War (2003 - Present)
Over 3 million Workers Killed

In 2007 George W. Bush met with Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni to discuss a proposed partnership to combat malaria and HIV/AIDS in the Sudan, Somalia, and Congo — a camouflage mission used to distract from U.S. covert military programs in proxy wars that have geo-political benefits to maintaining control of the Sudan.

The Iraq War (2003 - 2011)
Over 1 million Workers Killed

With over $580 billion of Department of Defense funding behind it, the Iraq War marked a noted shift in the way the U.S. military fought wars. The message to soldiers was "identifying the enemy won't be easy, so be prepared to kill a wide range of people."

Libyan Civil War (2011 - 2012)
Over 9,000 Workers Killed

The Libya intervention marked the third time in a decade that the U.S. supported a regime change in Libya.

War in Afghanistan (2001-2014)
Over 220,000 Workers Killed

In 2001, the U.S. attacked the Taliban in Afghanistan. A year later, in 2002, there were 10,000 U.S. troops and 5,000 international soldiers deployed into the region—all resulting in continued deadly attacks on working class people. Related to the war in Afghanistan, 80,000 were killed in Pakistan. There are 1.4 million refugees or internally displaced Pakistanis.

Oppose Klan, Deportations— March on May Day

NEW JERSEY, April 2—Our Progressive Labor Party (PLP) group had a recent social event to build for May Day and to support the Anaheim protesters arrested for fighting back against the Ku Klux Klan in California. Members and friends discussed many issues from raising revolution while fighting for a reform to the role of violence in the revolutionary struggle. One comrade was encouraged to invite everyone in her organization to come to May Day. Another comrade was motivated to contact several students, and one came with her boyfriend. She was inspired to reach out to even more students in the future.

Stop the Klan With Mass, Militant, Multi-racial Action!

The Anaheim struggle sparked an important discussion about the role of "violence" in building a multi-racial, international mass working-class movement against racism and capitalism, especially given Trump's encouragement of racist violence. Debates over the use of "violence" are timely today as protests against Trump grow. Both the mainstream media and anti-Trump liberals praise "free speech" and "peaceful protest" and are vocally critical of "troublemaking" protestors for their use of "violence." So violence in the class struggle becomes a hot button issue for our members and friends. Students are particularly torn between wanting to stop racists but unsure about the ethics of using force. While communists oppose individualistic, terroristic violence, revolution is not a tea party. The ruling class has shown that they will murder millions to stay in power and keep their profits flowing. Mass revolutionary violence will be necessary to get rid of this capitalist scum.

Describing the Anaheim action, one comrade explained that the party organizes carefully and thoughtfully to stop racist groups. We are not anarchists. In the recent Anaheim case, a group of anarchists attacked the Klan without first organizing in the community. PLP members and friends who were there fought back when attacked by the Klan. When the police entered the fray, they attacked only the anti-racists. The kkkops did not arrest any Klan members, only three anti-racists. The lesson of Anaheim is clear: anti-racists cannot rely on the kkkops or the government. We must organize a mass, multiracial, anti-racist movement first to support the Anaheim 3, and eventually to get rid of this racist, sexist capitalist system, once and for all.

No Free Speech For Racists

Another anti-racist action further illustrated the political necessity of "using force" to build a mass anti-racist movement: Middlebury College students – led by a small but determined group of students of color – prevented racist academic Charles Murray (The Bell Curve) from speaking. Murray's writings reflect ruling class efforts to revive "academic scientific racism," not by promoting theories of "biological inferiority" but by arguing that the culture of poverty, unemployment, and crime resulting from decades of racism make people of color a threat to society (generating fear among "whites"). The militant students who shouted down Murray gave a signal to everyone that there should be no "free speech" for racists.

ICE and KKKops Off Campus; No Deportation!

After these discussions, a fairly new PLer, an immigrant, reported on her efforts to organize a Rapid Response Network (RRN) to fight against increased ICE deportations. The RRN began as an initiative of a new community organization in Newark that wanted to build an electoral response to Trump's immigration policy. But the RRN organizers wanted a more direct action approach. To build anti-racist consciousness, the RRN proposed starting with a hotline open to non-citizens facing detainment by local police or ICE. Education/legal/political training would follow to address how all racism (anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-Muslim etc.) hurts the entire working class. The training would also expose the crucial role that the police, ICE, and even the military play in exploiting the working class. One Newark teacher suggested the RRN expand its base further by becoming part of the sanctuary movement being built by Newark teachers, who call for "police out of the schools" in Newark.

March on May Day

All these discussions lead us to May Day and the revolutionary communist struggle for a better world. One comrade said that EVERYTHING we demand in reform struggles is a compromise. We might win a few crumbs, but capitalist inequality, exploitation and imperialist wars continue. The working class needs an end to capitalism and a communist society in which workers make decisions and where all the resources go toward the needs of the people, not to profits. Let's get the new RRN recruits to come to May Day and to share with them our larger goals: getting rid of capitalism and of establishing an anti-racist, anti-sexist communist society.

So comrades and friends, march on May Day. Get inspired for another year of struggle. Bring your friends so they can get inspired. From Haiti to Mexico, from Afghanistan to the United States, let's give the working class a taste of communism!✪

Mass Red Leadership Needed at DC Metro

WASHINGTON, DC, April 11—The management of the Metro transit system in the Washington, DC region, backed by the political leaders of the region, have launched a determined attack on transit workers and riders. It's the biggest attack on the workers in over 30 years.

Workers are looking for leadership that is prepared to shut down the city until workers' needs are met, but, unfortunately, the current union leadership is following a losing strategy to resist these attacks. Workers and riders who are serious about fighting back must develop an alternative, mass, communist, leadership that is willing to fight by any means necessary to defend our interests.

Many workers also understand that this attack is racist. The workforce is predominately African-American and many lines that Metro wants to cut affect primarily Black and Latin neighborhoods. The fight against racism is central to the fight for a good contract and against service cuts. In DC, there are protests almost every weekend against Trump's policies, so workers at Metro feel the riding public will support us in a work action.



Rally last year against management's cutbacks, discriminatory disciplinary procedures, sell-out union leaders, and, ultimately, capitalism itself.

Union Misleaders

The bosses know that the weak union leadership has opened the way for them to attack the workers' contract in the current negotiations. The bosses intend to prevail in their efforts to cut pension and health benefits, increase the firings and harassment of workers, and lay off hundreds of workers by eliminating routes and runs. If they don't get these cuts through negotiations with the spineless leadership of the union, they will get them through the courts in arbitration.

The union has held several meetings about the contract to tell the membership what Metro is trying to do. Party members have spoken at these meetings to give the history of successful wildcat strike in 1978 that retained our cost-of-living escalator in the contract. They declared at these meetings that the rank-and-file must make the union strike ready, and were met with loud cheers and applause.

At one meeting, the union president tried to stop a Party member from speaking these militant words, but the workers in attendance chanted "Let him speak!" until the president had no choice but to let the party member finish his statement.

Workers support militant ideas. Consistent communist work at Metro has led to respect for those willing to fight.

The union's strategy of half-baked plans for work actions have been met with a tepid response. The union president called on workers to stop working overtime to protest of Metro's vicious attacks. She is just shadow boxing! Still, despite the lack of an organized plan for this work action, many workers at garages where party members worked did carry out the action.

The only thing standing between massive cuts in pension and health care benefits is the growth of Party membership at Metro. We need large numbers of workers—not just a handful—to understand the class nature of this struggle and the seriousness of the fight. Otherwise, Metro will succeed in manipulating and dividing us. As we fight these cuts, we must also prepare to eliminate the capitalist class altogether through revolution. The march on May Day points the way towards this communist revolution.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Security Against Clergy's Sway? Grow the Party

At a recent anti-deportation rally, PLP comrades joined a few dozen others from the community near the main entrance to a local airport used almost exclusively for deporting Latin workers (see article, page 3). We listened to speeches by members of various reform groups and churches, waiting for two busloads of detainees to arrive and board the planes to be deported.

Any notion of blocking the buses were quickly dashed as the buses entered through another entrance, away from where we stood. PLP members and some others moved closer to the actual gate of the runway. To our surprise, the gate was unlocked so we pushed it open and walked directly towards where the detainees were being boarded. The lone cop would have been powerless to stop us had all of us entered the runway.

However, a struggle took place at the runway gate began, with a religious "leader" demanding that we not enter the runway or disobey the terms he had "negotiated" with airport security prior to the rally. While he effectively stalled the protestors, half a dozen more squad cars soon arrived. In order to avoid being isolated and arrested before reaching the detainees, those of us on the runway soon reunited with the rest of the coalition.

The main lesson from this experience is not that we were stopped by a liberal religious leader, it's that we didn't have enough people, a large enough political base, to overcome that mis-leadership. We need to be more involved in the immigrant rights groups, on campus and in the churches. If we want to end these racist attacks, then we need to earn the trust and confidence of thousands of workers and youth, which is a long complicated process. Working-class families are being ripped apart as the bosses have shown their intentions to increase fascist terror. It's on us to build a mass base, with unbreakable personal and political ties for communist revolution, the only way to smash racist deportations and borders.

★★★★★



Prof, Students Feast on Revolutionary Politics

On April 16, fourteen professors and students came to a May Day dinner where we ate, talked politics, read poems and sang labor and left-wing songs (many re-written to be more explicitly anti-capitalist). The poems were selected for their anti-imperialist content, which we thought appropriate as U.S. destroyers were headed to the Korean peninsula for possible war and after the U.S. has escalated its bombing in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Some of the poems were written by Vietnamese communist soldiers expressing their determination to defeat the U.S. military occupation.

One of the students at the dinner read a remarkable poem she wrote about imperialism. During our political discussion, this same student asked how a future communist society could prevent a new ruling class from arising. This is a great question that generated a fruitful discussion. We know that it's possible for socialism to return to capitalism, as was proven in the Soviet Union and China. Socialism maintains many capitalist features, including wages and wage inequality. Those features can create the basis for a privileged class to arise and demand more capitalist practices and more privileges for themselves.

We talked about how important it was for communists to fight against the "employee mentality," where people just listen to leaders and do only what's asked, and no more. We encourage people to think for themselves and be vigilant against those who want to justify inequality.

A number of people made delicious food, which we ate while talking about organizing against the exploitation of low-paid adjunct faculty, against tuition hikes and for a society without exploitation or classes. Everyone received a flyer about our May Day march on April 29 and was encouraged to come.

★★★★★

LA: Campaign Demands Prosecution of KKKop Clifford Proctor for Murder

LOS ANGELES—A group of Progressive Labor Party communists, friends from the congregation, and I went to the Culver City Meets Venice CicLAvia bike route to collect signatures. They were petitioning to the Black District Attorney Jackie Lacey, demanding Lacey prosecute Clifford Proctor, the cop who shot un-housed young Black man Brendon Glenn in the back May 5, 2015.

Ever since, a multiracial group has been organizing marches to demand prosecution of Proctor. We marched on Venice Beach and Koreatown. We had also seized control of a town hall put by Lacey last year.

Mixed Response from Passersby

I was initially nervous about asking for signatures, but I was able to summon the courage to try. I was amazed to find that people of all hues and backgrounds signed, from a large Black family to an interracial couple. One Latin guy said, "[epithet] the police, where do I sign." A Black woman who was with her young daughter was open to the idea of communism. We talked about identity politics; I told we can't base unity on skin color, especially when dealing with business owners and politicians.

There were also naysayers. One guy told me that he would do research and call his congressman. A lawyer said that there needs to be evidence since an indictment is too extreme. There's so much evidence that the police chief has called for Proctor to be prosecuted, which is virtually unheard of, and the City of Los Angeles settled a civil suit filed by Brendon's mother and his child for $4 million. I was also amazed that plenty of white people signed the petition. I had my doubts, but my experience in PL and its analysis that racism also hurts white workers guided me to overcome my doubts and engage with white members of the working class more boldly.

Engaging in Nationalism vs. Communism Debate

One of my weaknesses when at public sales with CHALLENGE is getting stuck in a quicksand of conversations with people staunchly commitment to anti-communism, Black nationalism, or religious fundamentalism. At the CicLAvia, I had a long talk with a Black British woman who is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

She said police brutality is just as rampant in the more "liberal" city of London as it is in New York City. We discussed "white supremacy." I told her that Brandon Glenn was killed by a Black cop. She responded that the cop's actions were framed by white supremacy. I countered with the fact that South African cops and Kenyan cops are predominately black and they still terrorize and kill Black workers in a predominately Black environment. She responded that white supremacy and colonialism had "twisted their minds." I added that Asian cops in the Philippines, Korea, and Hong Kong (which were occupied by Japan during its colonial heyday) brutalize workers whenever they engage in class struggle. She concluded that they are exceptions, not the rule.

Though we disagreed on the terms "white supremacy" versus "racist capitalism," we both were against racism. She signed the petition. She told me she had recently joined Black Lives Matter, and suggested that I contact them to get involved in the Justice for Brendon Glenn campaign, since they are very popular and attract a lot of attention. I replied that due to their segregationist and reformist politics, they would probably not be a good fit.

When I recounted this conversation at a PL club meeting, my comrades said that although just about everything I had said was true, I was doing too much arguing and not enough questioning. Therefore, I was not learning about this particular woman's contradictions. Instead of rejecting her suggestion about involving BLM, I could've engaged her: I could've suggested attending a chapter meeting with her. Her response might have revealed more politics and a possible friendship. It is important to find points of unity with people, and through working together and putting forth communist ideas in the struggle, both sides will be changed. We aim for people to be won over to and deepen the communist side.

Expose the State, Organize the Party

Why isn't DA Lacey prosecuting killer cop Proctor? She was recently re-elected with support from virtually every police union and group in LA County and from dozens of liberal, Democratic, civil liberties, and Black groups. If she prosecutes, the cop groups will mobilize against her. If she announces that she won't prosecute, she'll lose the support of the other half of her political base. That's the particular.

Killer cops almost always get away with murder, because globally, the capitalist class and its puppet politicians own and rule the police forces. The police serve the moneymakers and their property, and protect them from the working class. That's the general.

Lacey hopes that if she stalls long enough, the murder of Brendon Glenn will fade away. We have been keeping Brendon's memory alive for two years through marches, articles, talks, and petitioning. Within the campaign, we are exposing the capitalist system and inviting our friends to our local May Day celebration April 29 and to march with us on May 1.

May Day: March for Communism

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verse the horrors of capitalism, only communism can.

Workers Wrecked by War & Borders

From Djibouti and Somalia to Yemen and Afghanistan, the working class is burning in the crossfire of the imperialists' fight to control oil and resources. There are more people displaced today than at the end of World War II— that's over 65.3 million refugees.

The workers and children of Syria are the latest targets of imperialist devastation—half the population, 11 million, are displaced (see page 2). Almost all experience torture, exploitation, disappearance, imprisonment, rape, and other forms of sexual violence. PLP says—smash these sexist attacks!

In East Africa, 20 million workers are on the brink of starvation because of famine and drought due to capitalist-caused climate change. PLP says—smash capitalism! Any "humanitarian" intervention means more terror and murder of our class.

In the face of these attacks, workers around the world continue to fight back! A record number hit the streets to rebel against the biggest, openly racist, sexist president that we've seen in years. Barack Obama broke the record for deporting more people than all other presidents combined—3.2 million people. President Donald Trump is carrying on this racist legacy. Over 21,300 immigrants have been arrested by ICE from January to mid-March, a 32.6 percent increase over last year (The Washington Post, 4/17). While this is lower than Obama's first months in 2014, the terrorization campaign against immigrant families may be higher than ever. Smash racist deportations! Working people have no nations!

Within hours of Trump's executive order to ban Muslim workers, thousands—Black, Latin, Asian, and white, men and women, young and old—rushed to airports in protest at dozens of cities throughout the U.S. and the world, from London and Paris to Manila and Jakarta. Workers set aside religious differences and joined in multiracial unity. This unity is essential for the working class to destroy the old order and create a new one: a communist world run by and for our class. As these fascist attacks increase under Trump and his administration, PLP still say, "It's not just Trump, it's capitalism".

Past Revolution Burns On in Us

PLP is not only armed with the world working class but with are political science of dialectical materialism, which requires looking at nature to understand the world. When we look at the stars we're actually looking into the past. For it takes thousands of years for those lights of stars to reach our eyes. Some are ghosts of stars that died years ago. We marvel at the sparks from the past.

Likewise, even as we live through this dark night wherein the international working class is suffering unprecedented poverty, hunger, war, disease, and racist and sexist oppression, we can see the sparks leftover from working-class revolutions and rebellions won.

We see it in the boldness of workers around the world who protest for better living conditions. We see it in the fighting spirit of rebels from Ferguson to Baltimore who stands up against police terror. It is these sparks that can help light the path to a new era. Our comrades, who fought and died in hopes of a better world, live on in us. Our revolutionary struggle is made up of the fight and lessons of the red giants as much as we are made of stardust.

We stay energized by them, for the battle still isn't won. We must turn these imperialist wars into class war, into a fight for communism. Under communism, all of human potential can be realized; all that is possible under the red sun can be actualized.

We've achieved workers' power in the past, and we can do it again. The numbers are on our side! We've built society from the ground up with blood, sweat, and tears. We built the homes, roads, and the bridges! We are the teachers, the students, soldiers, service workers, healthcare workers, electricians, technicians and engineers. We produce the food, the meds, and the cure. I'm talking working-class pride y'all!

We are about due for a communist revolution. We owe it to the legacy of our red comrades, to the legacy of the Bolsheviks, and to the future members of the working class. If you want this new world without racism, sexism imperialist wars, we must fight for it! Join PLP. When the working class is under attack what do we do! Stand up fight Back!✪

Smash Fascism with Communist Revolution!

Smash racism and sexism!
Smash all borders and imperialist war!

MAY DAY

SATURDAY
APRIL 29
Progressive Labor Party

Brooklyn
Chicago
Los Angeles
San Francisco

Sign up with your local communist. $20 employed, $10 student & unemployed

May Day Greetings from Colombia

COLOMBIA—Fellow workers, comrades, sympathizers and collaborators of PLP sending you a militant and effusive greeting from Colombia. We are getting ready to commemorate May Day the international day of the working class, when millions of workers around the world will celebrate a day of demonstrations and confrontations against our class enemy.

The Progressive Labor Party is carrying on this tradition in more than twenty countries in the five continents. Despite the bosses effort to bury this commemoration with their democratic, nationalistic and anticommunist propaganda millions of protesters will carry forwards our anticapitalist recognition showing our class potential to organize for a communist revolution. Everything we do to guarantee a more militant May Day creates the opportunity to build a bigger and more powerful PLP. A massive fighting party can take on bigger militant actions in the mass movements to win more militants, achieving these goals our revolutionary party has to grow until its members are in the millions and to build a communist world we will have to be millions.

Communist have a weapon to this noble cause which teaches us to see beyond appearances and to correct the weaknesses. That weapon is called dialectical materialism, the communist philosophy behind making change.

The present panorama or betrayal, pacifism, corruption and imperialist war that we the proletariat are living in Colombia is the same that our working class brothers and sisters in the world suffer: wage slavery, unemployment, lack of medical attention, low educational coverage, drug addiction, environmental pollution, deforestation, fascism, sexism, individualism, racism, nationalism reinforced with religious fanaticism, repression, all in all the after effects that the bosses capitalism imposes on us.

This is why comrades and workers of the world, we have to strengthen before adversity today more than ever we need to develop the PLP's revolutionary line. We have to auto criticize our work building a stronger party with quality and quantity.

The Dark Night will have its end, but we need to be amongst the workers increasing the class struggle, be creative, constant and dialectical to achieve it and demonstrate that the communist revolution is possible unlike how the imperialists and their revisionary henchmen want to make it seem that they are illusions or things of the past, that the revolutionary struggle is obsolete and we must work hand in hand with our exploiter that the collaboration of classes is better.

Everything we do for the revolutionary cause counts, in this area of the planet we organize and accompany our brothers and sisters of class in confrontations in their defending struggle trying to define our new party cells with our literature and the revolutionary message; we have a presence in political, worker and student meetings. Let's advance comrades of the world, for an international communist revolution, we are fighting to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat and to build a new communist society.✪

MAY DAY: FIGHT FOR WORKERS' POWER

When the working class is under attack, what do we do? Stand up fight back! Happy May Day everyone! May Day is the celebration of the working class. We honor the thousands of international, multiracial workers who fought and died for the eight-hour workday in 1886.

This year's May Day is especially important; it is the hundred-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. 1917: for the time first, millions of multiracial women and men took state power in the name of communism.

When the entire capitalist world sank into depression, when tens of millions worldwide were left jobless and starving, the Bolsheviks were building a new society with employment, education, childcare, and food for all.

While the capitalist U.S. supplied the Nazi Germany with eugenics research funds, fascist uniforms, jet engines, military equipment, oil, and information technology for the concentration camps, the workers of the USSR made it their responsibility to defeat fascism. With a Red Army, they did.

Coming War and Fascism

Today, we're living under a growing fascist empire. The USSR has reversed back to a profit system, as some inequalities were not completely eradicated. We, the PLP, carry on the struggle and will carry it on until the profit system is destroyed once and for all.

The horrors of this system continue to grow. The bosses are relentless in their attacks, driven by their need for profit! We are living in a time of growing fascism, because this capitalist system is in crisis. The conflict between inter-imperialists China, Russia and the United States is rising. U.S.-Russia relations are worse than they were after World War I, at the "lowest possible point in history. The bosses are back in power in Russia- a government that's an imperialist betrayal of everything 1917 stood for! Chinese imperialists are also challenging U.S. power.

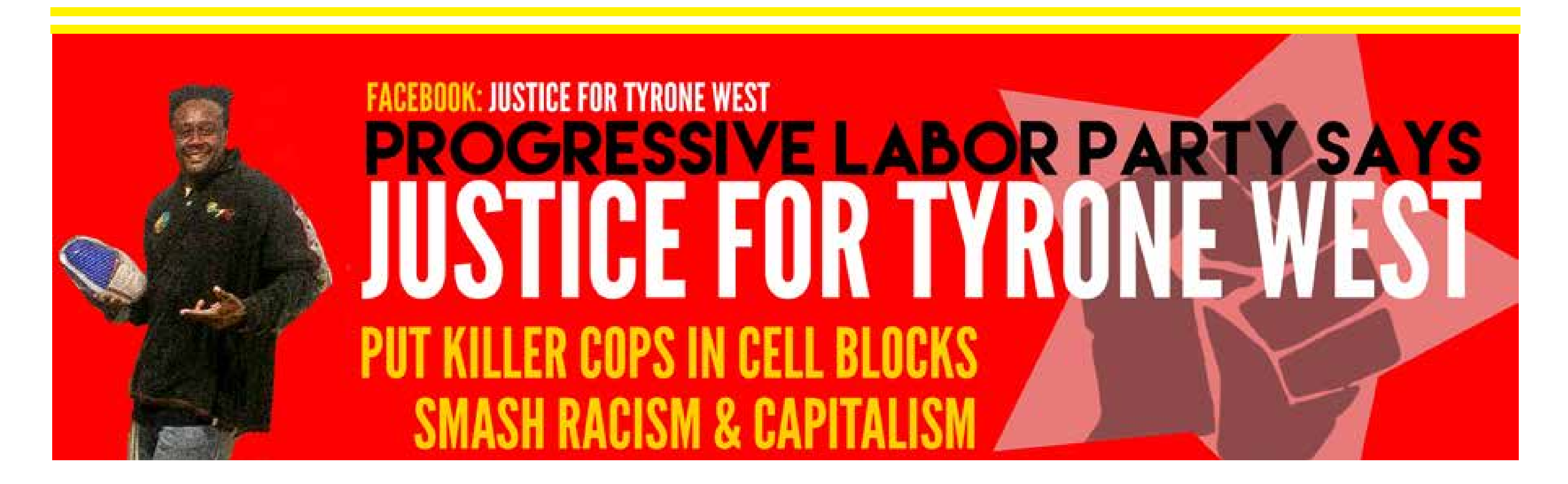
We are approaching the reality of a third world war, and the bosses are never hesitant to sacrifice the lives of workers in order to claim their piece of the capitalist pie. Workers of the world have nothing to win from backing one group of capitalists over another! In 2017, PLP continues the legacy of the Bolsheviks of 1917—transforming imperialist war into a class war for communist revolution!

Fight Back!

The road to revolution is protracted, and we build the movement for communism by fight back! In our experience in the fight against police terror, Black women have taken the lead. The families of Tyrone West, Kyam Livingston, Shantel Davis, Ramarley Graham, Kiki Gray, and Eric Garner—there are too many name—who were slain by kkkops, have led the fight against police terror and for justice that may never come under this system. The police killed more Black people in 2015 than the KKK lynched in the worst year of Jim Crow.

A Black president didn't change these numbers. Neither would a woman president. This is why nationalism and identity politics are a deadly trick of bosses. The liberal bosses will never re-

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This is the banner that anti-racist fighters from Baltimore will be proudly, enthusiastically, and angrily carrying in the May Day march. Tyrone West was unarmed but viciously beaten to death by racist cops, Criminals On Patrol, after a simple traffic stop for no reason in July of 2013. We've been fighting for justice ever since.

On the banner, Tyrone's photograph, one of his sister's all-time favorite pictures , shows him with a turkey in his hand. He loved family holidays, and the pictured moment was the year he cooked the whole Thanksgiving dinner, all by himself, for the very first time.

Prepping for May Day

One of our members from Baltimore gave a May Day Speech at a school concert. He gave a brief explanation about what May Day is and how it came to be. Aside from his speech on May Day, our comrade also got several people to sign up to come to both May Day and the May Day dinner. Recruitment to PLP and getting people to better understand our Party's line is necessary for the qualitative and quantitative growth of the Party.

The most important part of his presentation was his proud and bold admittance of being a Communist. It is understood that not everyone in the party can be open about their status as a PL member, but for those that are in a position where they can be open, it is important that these individuals take advantage of that opportunity, and this member did! The PL party must grow, in both quality and quantity. The fight for communism will be a long one, but we can never let our red fire burn out!

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